

**MINUTES OF THE
TRANSPORTATION INTERIM COMMITTEE**

Wednesday, September 19, 2012 – 9:00 a.m. – Room 30 House Building

Members Present:

Senate Chair Kevin T. Van Tassell
House Chair Bradley M. Daw
Sen. Scott K. Jenkins
Sen. Peter C. Knudson
Sen. Karen Mayne
Sen. Daniel W. Thatcher
Rep. Stewart Barlow
Rep. Rebecca P. Edwards
Rep. Craig A. Frank
Rep. Janice M. Fisher
Rep. Stephen G. Handy
Rep. Lynn N. Hemingway

Rep. Todd E. Kiser
Rep. Carol Spackman Moss
Rep. Val L. Peterson
Rep. Kraig Powell
Rep. Kenneth W. Sumsion

Members Absent:

Rep. Bradley G. Last

Staff Present:

Mr. Leif G. Elder, Policy Analyst
Ms. Shannon C. Halverson, Associate General Counsel
Ms. Tracey Fredman, Legislative Secretary

Note: A list of others present, a copy of related materials, and an audio recording of the meeting can be found at www.le.utah.gov.

1. Committee Business

Chair Daw called the meeting to order at 9:16 a.m. Rep. Last was excused from the meeting.

MOTION: Rep. Peterson moved to approve the minutes of the August 15, 2012, meeting. Rep. Edwards, Rep. Fisher, and Rep. Kiser were absent for the vote.

2. Annual High Occupancy Vehicle (HOV) Lane Report

Mr. Carlos Braceras, Deputy Director, Utah Department of Transportation (UDOT), presented "Express Lanes" and discussed the success and safety of HOV lane usage in the state.

Mr. Braceras and Mr. John Njord, Executive Director, UDOT, responded to committee members' questions regarding the revenues generated by the HOV lanes.

3. Speed Limit Studies

Mr. Braceras distributed "Interstate 15: 80 MPH Segments" and briefed committee members on the results of a traffic engineering and safety study done on portions of I-15 between certain mile posts, as authorized by 2008 General Session H.B. 406, "Traffic Code Amendments," which was sponsored by Rep. James A. Dunnigan.

Rep. Dunnigan noted that because neither the speed of traffic or accidents have increased during the testing period, he was interested to know if the committee would support a permanent increase in the legal speed limit to 80 mph in those testing areas. Rep. Dunnigan also asked the committee to consider an expansion of some of the existing testing zones.

Committee discussion followed.

MOTION: Sen. Jenkins moved that the committee support the consideration of expanding, in a prudent way, the freeway segments on which UDOT may establish a posted speed limit of 80 mph. The motion passed unanimously. Rep. Kiser and Rep. Moss were absent for the vote.

Mr. Neldon Jones, citizen, distributed "Speed Limit Study Data" and spoke in support of setting higher and more realistic speed limits.

4. Annual Review of New Transportation Capacity Projects

Mr. Cory Pope, Director, Systems Planning and Programming, UDOT, distributed "Utah County Corridor Expansion, September 2012 Project Status," "Mountain View Corridor Progress Report, Late Summer 2012," "SR252 Construction," and "Statewide Capacity Projects." Mr. Pope referred to the handouts while providing committee members a progress report of existing capacity projects and plans for future projects. Mr. Pope also gave a presentation of the UDOT website, noting that access to information on transportation projects is available to anyone who is interested.

5. Draft Legislation: Public Transit District Customer Information

Mr. Bruce Jones, General Counsel, Utah Transit Authority, discussed the provisions of draft legislation "Public Transit District Customer Information" (2013FL-122/004), which was distributed in the mailing packet.

MOTION: Sen. Van Tassell moved to recommend draft legislation "Public Transit District Customer Information" (2013FL-122/004), as a committee bill. The motion passed unanimously. Sen. Jenkins, Rep. Kiser, and Rep. Peterson were absent for the vote.

6. Motor Vehicle Titling

Mr. Elder briefed committee members on the issue of motor vehicle titling from 2012 General Session S.J.R. 3, "Joint Resolution - Master Study," item 125, which refers to the study of the process the Division of Motor Vehicles uses to issue a new title in a repair facility's name if the towing and storage fees are not paid by the owner of a vehicle, or the lien holder, as well as the division's process for allowing towing facilities to obtain the title of a vehicle if towing and storage fees are not paid.

Mr. Barry Conover, Executive Director, Utah State Tax Commission, introduced Mr. Brad Simpson, Director, Division of Motor Vehicles, Utah State Tax Commission.

Mr. Simpson presented some background statistics on the number of vehicles involved in the processes being discussed. He stated that the Division of Motor Vehicles registers about 2.7 million vehicles, and issues some 800,000 titles, impounds about 25,000 vehicles, and sells close to 4,600 of those impounded vehicles per year. Mr. Simpson briefed committee members on the procedures that are followed when a vehicle is left unclaimed and unpaid at a repair facility or impound lot.

Mr. Wayne Jones, Executive Director, Independent Auto Dealer's Association, discussed the recurring problem that arises when a vehicle, which was purchased from and financed by a dealer, is abandoned at an impound yard by an owner who is charged with DUI. He stated that the dealer is required to pay the DUI impound fees to reclaim the collateral for the original loan. Mr. Jones said that the association would like to see something put into statute that would require the responsibility of paying the DUI impound fee to fall back onto the purchaser of the vehicle rather than the lien holder.

Committee discussion followed. No action was taken on this issue.

7. Other Items / Adjourn

MOTION: Sen. Thatcher moved to adjourn the meeting. The motion passed unanimously. Sen. Knudson, Sen. Jenkins, Rep. Fisher, Rep. Moss, and Rep. Peterson were absent for the vote.

Chair Daw adjourned the meeting at 11:35 a.m.